



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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September 23, 2003

TO: Valoria Loveland, Director
Department of Agriculture

FROM: Marty Brown, Director

SUBJECT: Department of Agriculture Incident Report #03-13 Does Not Merit Review

Pursuant to RCW 43.41.370 and the Guidelines for Reporting Incidents to the Office of Financial Management (OFM), the Department of Agriculture submitted an Incident Report notifying OFM that on November 8, 2002, an Agriculture employee driving a state pickup truck and the driver of another vehicle both died in a head-on collision.

The accident occurred on SR 17 in Grant County when the state vehicle, driven by a Weights and Measures Inspector on his way to work in the early morning, crossed the centerline. Both drivers died at the scene. A Major Accident Investigation Team prepared a report which was inconclusive on the reasons the state driver failed to remain to the right of the line, but speculated that driver inattention and fatigue may have caused the collision.

RCW 43.41.370(1) requires the Director of OFM to appoint a loss prevention review team when the death of a person, serious injury to a person, or other substantial loss is alleged or suspected to be caused at least in part by the actions of a state agency unless the Director, in his discretion, determines that the incident "does not merit review". Applying the criteria for loss prevention reviews issued November 18, 2002 I have determined this incident does not merit review. While the incident resulted in two fatalities, it does not significantly relate to agency systems or practices. A thorough external review has been conducted; a further review would be unlikely to add value. Additionally, OFM's Loss Prevention Program is working on an initiative to reduce auto accidents involving state drivers, and will share its recommendations and training with other agencies within the next few months.

This decision will be posted on the OFM website. If you have any questions about the criteria or its application to this incident, please contact either Susan Hettinger at (360) 902-9815 or Gary Robinson at (360) 902-0528.

cc: Phil Harrison, Risk Management, Department of Agriculture